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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 003774

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 14-17: KUWAITI FORCES  
FOR IRAQ; TERRORISM; ABU MAZEN VISIT; GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

REF: KUWAIT 02545

[11](#). SUMMARY: One newspaper reports official denials that Kuwait will send peacekeeping forces to Iraq, contradicting a local press report of August 16 that Kuwait, Qatar and UAE would contribute forces to the coalition effort. One commentator believes that Arab unity is dead as a result of the war in Iraq, and that Gulf countries should "detach themselves from the old Arab system" and send forces to Iraq.

Another disagrees with American Ambassador to Kuwait Richard [H. Jones](#)' comment in a local paper that Kuwait has gained a great deal from supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, pointing to Kuwaiti "isolation" due to "world-wide opposition" to the war, and the "lack of promised security."

While one writer agrees that the Arab world needs democracy and freedom, he blames US support for Israel for terrorism. Another sarcastically writes that the only cooperation Arabs can muster is in "spreading extremism and financing terrorism." Opinion on a Palestinian apology for support of Iraq's 1990 invasion before any visit by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas remains divided. END SUMMARY.

[12](#). News Stories: Following a meeting with Minister of Interior, the Chairman of the National Committee for the Kuwait Detainees at Guantanamo, Khaled Al-Ouda, reported that the Minister had asked Ambassador Jones to communicate to the American Administration the importance of either trying or releasing Kuwaiti detainees at Guantanamo, Al-Rai Al-Aam reports on its August 17 front page.

Al-Qabas reports on its front page that the Ministry of Defense approved the naturalization of 400 bidoons (stateless residents of Kuwait) who work in the military and is considering the posthumous naturalization of several bidoon POWs.

Al-Anba reports that a Kuwaiti military source has denied an August 16 report in Al-Seeyasah that Kuwait plans to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq.

Al-Watan reports that the new Minister of Information, Mohammed Abul-Hasan, met with the editor-in-chief of Al-Watan, Mohammad Al-Jassim- who was referred to the Public Prosecutor in June on charges of "contesting the authority of the Amir" (reftel)- and received Al-Jassim's comments on the proposed press law that would give the government more power to .

Al-Anba reports that a Ministry of Planning survey says that 463,566 Kuwaiti women currently work, comprising 37.8% of the workforce.

Editorials:

[13](#). "Manufacturing Democracy"  
Adnan Al-Kazemi wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/17): "I agree with what Dr. [Condoleezza] Rice. that lack of freedom is the cause for the low gross national product of the Arab world and that this region needs to develop by granting more freedom and democracy. However, I do not agree with her that terrorism is caused by shortage of various resources. It is rather due to the existence of Israel and U.S. support for it. The best assistance that the West can offer the Arabs is to not intervene in Arabs' internal affairs and to keep their distance. They can only offer advice and technical assistance because Arabs need to solve their own problems."

[14](#). "The Superstar of Terrorism"  
Salwa Al-Saeed wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (8/16): "Terrorism in Saudi Arabia is not exclusively Saudi-made. There are indications that Arabs and at least five Kuwaitis had a role in the attacks, which took place in Saudi Arabia

in the past few months. As for Iraq, Arab extremists also had a role in the attacks against American forces. This proves the failure of Arabs to achieve any form of useful cooperation other than spreading extremism and financing terrorism. The best product of the Arab world is the export of terrorism."

15. "The Right Number in the Wrong Formula"

Amena Al-Musawi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/15): "[In an interview with Al-Qabas published on July 27] the US Ambassador to Kuwait expressed surprise that Kuwaitis would wonder what benefits they've gained from allowing the US to use Kuwait as a base to wage war on Iraq. He stated that Kuwait gained billions of dollars as a result of the presence of coalition forces, in addition to Kuwait's liberation from the dangers of Saddam. What the American Ambassador failed to mention is that. Kuwait has paid a dear price for supporting the Anglo-American war on Iraq since most countries world-wide rejected the war. Moreover, Kuwait has incurred environmental damage as a result of war on Iraq due to the presence of coalition forces. The American Ambassador also failed to mention that the security which the US has promised us is not a reality."

16. Thabet Al-Haroon wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/14): "The American Administration has been busy trying to issue resolutions in Iraq unilaterally, without consulting the Iraqis. [and] have failed to benefit from the potential of the Iraqi opposition parties by not allowing them to contribute to the handling of affairs in their country."

17. "Welcome, Abu Mazen"

Hassan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/14): "Why are we still holding the entire Palestinian people responsible for the mistakes of its former leadership? . Abu Mazen has repeatedly confirmed the illegitimacy of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, emphasizing the Palestinian people are suffering from a similar situation."

18. "You Are Not Welcome"

Adel Al-Qassar wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/14): "We praise the government's step to postpone the visit of Abu Mazen to Kuwait unless there is a clear apology from him [for Palestinian support of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait]. Kuwait's dignity cannot bear their rudeness."

19. "Arabs Are The Enemies of Iraq"

Abdelamir Al-Turki wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (8/17): "The role of the Gulf region has become vital after the collapse and the defeat of the Arab system at the hands of Israel and Iraq. The recognition by the UN Security Council of the Interim Governing Council and the Arab League's refusal to recognize it is clear proof that the old Arab system has died. Therefore, it is natural that the Gulf region detach itself from that vulnerable Arab system and take a leading role concerning Iraq by deciding to send Arab forces to maintain peace and security in Iraq."

URBANCIC